

MARCH 2006



# MONTANA GEAR UP

GAINING EARLY AWARENESS & READINESS FOR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

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## GEARUP



## Director's Message by Sandy Merdinger

As you may have already heard, President Bush's budget released in early February eliminates funding for the GEAR UP program, as well as Upward Bound and Talent Search. Since GEAR UP is forward funded by Congress, this means that Montana GEAR UP will have funding through the 2006-07 academic year. Although the cut was expected and is a repeat of his budget request last year, I am optimistic that GEAR UP will be left intact when Congress completes its deliberations of the President's budget. In the meantime, we all need to continue our work to make postsecondary education a possibility for all of our students and make sure policymakers are aware of our successes.

In mid-February, the annual GEAR UP Capacity Building Workshop sponsored by the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP) was held in San Antonio. Sessions we attended continually reinforced for me the need to be using data to better serve our program. At the school level, we plan to provide more information to you about using the data in GEARS and from the surveys. At the state level, we want to better use data to guide our decisions as a program and also provide it to interested parties to show the success (or not) of strategies to improve students' preparation and aspirations to attend postsecondary education. The information can only help us bring about sustainability for postsecondary education readiness and access in our schools. I believe that it is a responsibility of Montana GEAR UP to continue to search for best practices, incubate them in GEAR UP schools, and then search for opportunities to roll them out to a broader audience. Be sure to pass on your successes to us so that we can see that they are shared with others.

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## Thomson Peterson's College Entrance Scholarships

In collaboration with Thomson Peterson's, the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP) has announced a scholarship recognition program targeting GEAR UP students demonstrating the greatest improvement in their performance on college entrance exams. This scholarship program has been established in appreciation of the need for GEAR UP students to attain supplemental financial assistance in order to successfully pursue their postsecondary education.



The program is specifically designed to reward students for their efforts to prepare for official college entrance exams, including the SAT and ACT. **Six \$2,500 scholarships** will be awarded nationally to GEAR UP students who have demonstrated the greatest increase in scores on officially administered college entrance examinations. In addition to receiving scholarship funding, the six scholarship recipients will have their travel, lodging and conference registration expenses covered to attend the 2006 NCCEP Annual Conference in Washington, DC, where the scholarships will be awarded.

Applicants must be high school or college students who have actively participated in GEAR UP activities and must be nominated by their GEAR UP Directors in order to be considered for the program. Montana GEAR UP may nominate one student. For more information about the 2006 GEAR UP College Entrance Exam Scholarships please visit the NCCEP website at [www.edpartnerships.org](http://www.edpartnerships.org), or contact Marie Hughes, Program Associate via email at [Marie\\_Hughes@edpartnerships.org](mailto:Marie_Hughes@edpartnerships.org). Completed applications should be sent to Montana GEAR UP, attention Sandy Merdinger; one will then be forwarded to NCCEP.

## The GEAR UP Spotlight: Dixon School

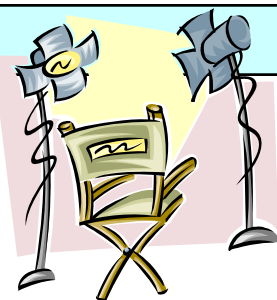
### **Dixon 7th Graders are *Great!* by Dave Herries, GEAR UP Liaison**

Dixon Schools are off to a wonderful beginning. Although we have only a few 7th graders, they are *great!* We have completed posters and essays that have been sent in to Montana GEAR UP. We did a Snickers® project, which was fun: The kids have to figure out all the jobs it takes to produce the candy bar. One girl came up with over 200 with more to come!

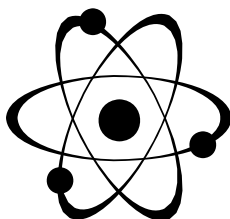
We have had a wealth of speeches from the scientists who work for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. Our goal is to have one speaker per week. To date, we have had speakers from the Forestry, Land Management, Fisheries, Wilderness and Nursing departments. Students received a special gift of a “fishing outfit” from Tribal Fish and Game. WOW!

Our first college visit will be to the Science Department at Salish Kootenai College. Students will view Physics experiments, Molecular experiments, and polarizing microscopes, as well as talks by Physics, Geology, and Bacteriology instructors.

On the community outreach level, we have had one family night getting acquainted and having dinner. Though not everyone, a mighty group turned out. We expect all to be present next time! All in all, GEAR UP at Dixon is developing into a *great* program with high expectations for our group.



## Montana Science Fair 2006



Attention students and science teachers! The 2006 Montana Science Fair is coming soon! March 19-21, 2006 at the University of Montana—Missoula. Interested students must register on-line, and all students who are registered before March 10, 2006 are guaranteed a free t-shirt! Registration is \$20 per student, and can be completed at [www.mtsciencefair.org](http://www.mtsciencefair.org).

While in Missoula, science fair attendees can receive the “scientifically sound” block rate of \$64 plus tax at the Doubletree Hotel Missoula/Edgewater. Call (406) 542-4654 for reservations.

If you or your students have any questions regarding the Montana Science Fair 2006, contact Kahneedah Fleming, Montana Science Fair Assistant Director at (406) 243-2866 or [kahneedah.fleming@umontana.edu](mailto:kahneedah.fleming@umontana.edu).

## 11th Grade Achievement Grant Recipients Announced!

Montana GEAR UP is proud to announce this year's Achievement Grant recipients! Eligible applications for the \$1,000 grant have been received from 213 11th grade students from 18 GEAR UP schools from the 1999 GEAR UP grant. The Achievement Grant can be used toward postsecondary education at any accredited institution in the United States. Students who receive the Achievement Grant in their junior year and are eligible may apply for the \$20,000 GEAR UP Pathways Scholarship in their senior year. This is an exciting and integral component of Montana GEAR UP for students across the state! See this month's newsletter for a listing of the 2006 Achievement Grant recipients and their schools. The Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program (MGS�P) administers the grant, and many thanks are due to Janice Kirkpatrick and Dawny McElderry with MGS�P for their work in administering these wonderful opportunities for GEAR UP students!

## Spring Liaisons Meeting—May 2-3, 2006 in Helena

Mark it on your calendars! The Montana GEAR UP Spring Liaisons Meeting is coming soon! We are scheduling the spring meeting for May 2-3, 2006 in Helena. The meeting will be at the same location in the Lewis & Clark Library, and we will be tentatively starting at 1:30 pm on Tuesday and ending by 3:00 pm Wednesday. One change from the winter meeting is that we have been able to secure a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn Helena Downtown, which is walking distance from the library, so commuting and parking should not be a problem. Feel free to come early or stay later and schedule a meeting with your School Grant Manager, or visit with other state GEAR UP staff.

Rooms have been reserved for the night of the 2nd to accommodate same-day travel. To reserve a room at the Holiday Inn Helena Downtown, call (406) 443-2200 and ask for the Montana GEAR UP (code: MTG) rate of \$64 plus tax. Please call to reserve your room before April 12th. As always, we will have a full agenda, covering such items as the final report and next year's implementation plans. See you in May!

# **11th Grade Achievement Grant Recipients!**

## **Arrowhead/Park**

- Tommie Lopez-Vasquez
- Jodi Redfield
- Katie Redfield

## **Box Elder**

- Tiffany Meiwald
- Joshua Ochoa
- Carrie Parisian
- Helen Russette
- Sheena Teske

## **Browning**

- Taylor Bear Medicine
- Roxanne Bird Rattler
- Jarriel Blackman
- Remington Boushie
- Kimberly Butterfly
- Laine Carlson
- Kimberly CreeMedicine
- Darylie Croff
- Michelle Crossguns-Higgins
- Jessi Foote
- Zachary Gervais
- Michael Goss
- Laura Hall
- Irene Harrison
- Jesse Harwood
- Slater Henkel
- Jeffrey Hoyt
- Molly Juneau
- Amanda Kennerly
- Charmaine Kennerly
- Alicia Ladd
- Terrance LaFromboise
- Lacie Lahr
- Jordan McClure
- Molly Murray
- Kelli Parsons
- Kimberlee Pollock
- Travis Preuss
- Leo Rattler

## **Browning (continued)**

- Kathlene Running Crane
- Wesley Running Crane
- Clarence Spotted Eagle II
- Noel Stewart
- Blaine Tennis
- Adrien Wagner

## **Charlo**

- Adri Antoine
- Raeva Corkill
- Jason Foust
- Lane Harriman
- Ma'rya Hungerford
- Taylor Kerr
- Jared Kingery
- Amanda Murphy
- Rocky Reynolds
- Adeleene Rockwell
- Stevie-Leigh Sammons

## **Dutton/Brady**

- Andrew Bishop
- Cassie Campbell
- Travis Hodgson
- Danielle Stevenson

## **Evergreen/Flathead**

- Dustin Bauer
- Brianna Compton
- Jessica Johnson
- Jake Larsen
- Alyssa Larsen
- Alyssa Pitt
- Jennifer Tobiason
- James Wisher

## **Hardin**

- Hannah Adams
- Devaney Buffalo
- Aaron Chavez
- Selene Christman
- Kevin Couch
- Mindy Drake

## **Hardin (continued)**

- Kendell Duncan
- Angelique Enzminger
- Kimberly Francis
- Brittany Hammond
- Joshua Hyde
- Joshua Link
- Nathan Link
- Cortney Lundberg
- Arielle Lyster
- Ramiko Mireau
- Jerrod Morrison
- Josiah Norby
- Brooke Ostahowski
- Kole Passes
- Trixy Phelan
- Corina Pickett
- Sara Pretty Weasel
- Sloane Real Bird
- Kelsey Roebling
- Alicia Schaak
- Kelvin Schanaman
- Brianna Seder
- Kayla Stoltz
- Chelsea Thompson
- Alanya Three Irons
- Dvera Tolbert
- Ross Torske
- Brandon Uffelman
- John Wemple
- Alex Will
- Jessup Wyman
- Jacob Wynne-Wilson
- Allison York

## **Harlem**

- Kaye Brown
- Starlynn Carrywater
- Steven Castillo
- Heather Earthboy
- Tyler Faulkinberry

## **11th Grade Achievement Grant Recipients! continued**

### **Harlem (continued)**

- Jamie Lee Fox
- Sarah Gone
- Connor Green
- Chris Green
- Zach Hammond
- Naomi Hinkle
- Ashley Kennedy
- Danielle Kinsey
- Lacey Kulbeck
- LaToya Long Knife
- Edward Moore
- Ty Mount
- Nathaniel Mount
- Idalee Mountain Chief
- Charles Rider
- Gemma Rides At The Door
- Amy Stiffarm
- Leandra Thomas

### **Hays/Lodge Pole**

- Lance Brockie
- Lacey Carrywater
- Franklin Doney Jr.
- Vincent Gone
- Clintessa Haakanson
- Donald Has Eagle
- Tricia Kirkaldie
- Beth Snow
- Jeffrey Werk

### **Heart Butte**

- Megan Bird
- Jeremy Comes At Night
- Kortni Guardipee
- Jeffrey Horn
- Danelle Moreno
- Timothy Reevis
- Mary Russell
- Alfreda White Quills

### **Kila/Flathead**

- Chelcie Brooks
- Diana Pewitt

### **Lame Deer**

- Lindi Bearcomesout
- Ruthie Biglefthand
- Preston Gray
- Kayla Limberhand
- Michael Mexican Cheyenne
- Molly Spang
- Ciera Spotted Elk
- Lindsey Whitewolf
- Jodi Woodenthigh

### **Lincoln**

- Mitch Brady
- Cody Clark
- Stevie Fehrs
- Cody Gray
- Kevin Heisler
- Patricia Korman
- JariAnne Skeldon
- Justin Smart
- Ryan Spence
- Nicole Tams

### **Rocky Boy**

- Justin Ahenakew
- Eli Aquino
- Tori Belcourt
- Leiloni Belcourt
- Jorden Coffee
- Van Four Souls
- Lindsey Houle
- Dean Nault
- Michelle Parker
- Brian Rosette
- Richard Small
- Krystal Small
- Chris Stump
- Darcey Sunchild

### **Rocky Boy (continued)**

- Jamie Swan
- Cody Trottier

### **St. Ignatius**

- Kayla Brock
- Casey Cable
- John Currie
- Frances Frazzini
- Alan Lee
- Brittany Matt
- Ashley Mitchell
- Barbara Pfeifer
- Aaron Trudeau
- Anthony Yazzie

### **Vaughn/Simms**

- Tiffany Dear
- Ryan Johnson
- Terrence Martel

### **Wibaux**

- Caitlin Adorni
- Robert Bacon
- Breeanna Barnaby
- Brittney Beach
- Krista Bushman
- Katelyn Chaffee
- Kody Davis
- Tommi Hoagland
- Kadie Kreitinger
- Carson Lauf
- Aaron Maus
- Hilary Royal Efta
- Jenny Zinda

### **Winnett**

- Amanda Clark
- Nicole Kimmel
- Felicia Manuel
- Kiena Sandman
- Malori Woodford

## **Indian Education for All—Staff Development Opportunities**

This summer there are two great opportunities for school staff to increase their knowledge and cultural awareness in implementing Indian Education for All (IEA):

*Battling for Survival—American Indians in Montana* will be offered twice this summer at Montana State University in Billings. Session I will be June 19-24, and Session II will be June 26-July 1. This workshop will provide a professional development opportunity for teachers to help promote respect towards the unique contribution that Montana's Indian tribes have made to the history and development of this great state. This week-long workshop will provide participants with the necessary tools to develop strategies to implement Indian Education for All. Applications are due by April 3 and may be submitted online at [www.msubillings.edu/battlingforsurvival](http://www.msubillings.edu/battlingforsurvival), or call (406) 457-2185 for more information.

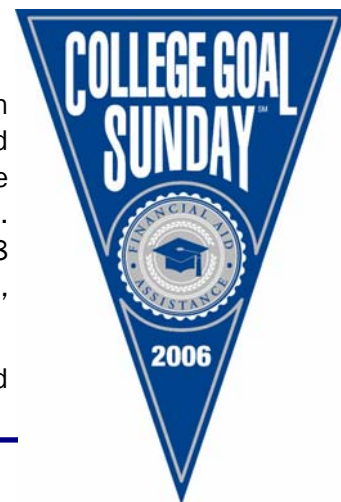
*Indian Education for All Institute* will be offered at the University of Montana in Missoula, June 19-22. This workshop for educators will focus on essential understandings; critical literacy: addressing absence, myth and stereotype; and an IEA curriculum showcase. A leading American Indian educator, Dr. Gregory Cajete, will be a featured conference presenter, and an evening banquet—Honoring Native Women's Voices—will feature music by Ulali. Yup'ik storyteller Jack Dalton can also be heard at the institute. Early registration is due May 15; information and registration forms are available at [www.crossingthegreatdivide.org](http://www.crossingthegreatdivide.org).

## **2nd Annual College Goal Sunday a Huge Success!!**

**by Libby Siebens, SAF College Goal Sunday Coordinator**

College Goal Sunday helps students gain access to college by providing hands-on assistance completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The second annual College Goal Sunday event was held February 12 on 17 Montana college campuses. Over 1,200 people participated in the event, up 24 percent from 2005. Attendance ranged from 20 participants at Fort Peck Community College-Poplar to 188 participants at MSU-Billings. Four sites were added this year (Bozeman, Glendive, Helena and Miles City) to improve access to the event statewide.

Thank you to GEAR UP staff for your participation in College Goal Sunday 2006 and encouraging your students to attend. We appreciate you!



## **March Reminders**

- Southeastern Regional Meeting, March 1, 2006 at MSU-Billings Student Union Building; 1:00 pm.
- North Central Regional Meeting, March 6, Great Falls, location TBA; 1:00 pm—5:00 pm.
- Northeastern Regional Meeting, March 28 at Harlem School Guidance Center; 2:30 pm.
- Montana Indian Education Association Spring Conference is March 30—April 2, 2006 in Billings. For registration form, visit the Montana GEAR UP website ([www.gearup.montana.edu](http://www.gearup.montana.edu)).
- Montana School Counselors Association Spring Institute, April 20-21 in Bozeman. For more information, visit [www.mtschoolcounselor.org](http://www.mtschoolcounselor.org).
- Spring Liaisons Meeting in Helena; May 2-3; Call the Holiday Inn Helena Downtown at (406) 443-2200.
- GEAR UP Spring/Summer 2006 Professional Development Opportunities schedule is available on the GEAR UP website ([www.gearup.montana.edu](http://www.gearup.montana.edu)).
- Spotlight articles for the April newsletter are due March 17th and can be sent to Cyrus Malkin at [cmalkin@oche.montana.edu](mailto:cmalkin@oche.montana.edu).
- This newsletter can also be viewed on our website ([www.gearup.montana.edu](http://www.gearup.montana.edu)).
- If you know of anyone who would like to receive this newsletter, send his or her information to Cyrus Malkin at [cmalkin@oche.montana.edu](mailto:cmalkin@oche.montana.edu).





## ACT Test Fee Waivers for Low-Income Students

Students from low-income families that can not afford the registration fee for the ACT (No Writing) or ACT Plus Writing may be eligible for a fee waiver. Funds are limited, and once they are gone, requests for waivers will be denied. **To use a fee waiver, a student must register by paper folder and not on-line.**

To be eligible for an ACT fee waiver, a student must meet all three of the following requirements:

1. Currently attend high school as a junior or senior.
2. Meet at least one indicator of economic need listed on the ACT fee waiver form. Information about these indicators and how to request fee waiver forms is mailed each fall to every high school. Ask your counselor for the information.
3. Register only once with an ACT fee waiver, either in the junior or senior year. The waiver is used once the student **registers** for the test, even if they do not actually complete the test.

Fee waivers cover *only* the basic registration fee for either the ACT (No Writing) or the ACT Plus Writing, including up to *four* valid college choices (listed at the time of registration). Waivers do not cover test date changes, test center changes, or any other fees.

GEAR UP liaisons and high school counselors may order up to 25 fee waivers at one time by calling (319) 337-1270 and giving their high school code and other school-specific information. PLEASE NOTE: A student or parent can not request a waiver directly from ACT; the request must come through the high school guidance office.

The basic fees for the ACT are as follows:

\$29.00 for the ACT (No Writing)

\$43.00 for the ACT Plus Writing

### 2006-2007 Test & Registration Schedule

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>(Late Fee Required)</u>
April 8, 2006	March 3, 2006	March 4–17, 2006
June 10, 2006	May 5, 2006	May 6–19, 2006
September 16, 2006*	August 18, 2006	August 19–25, 2006
October 28, 2006	September 22, 2006	September 23–October 6, 2006
December 9, 2006	November 3, 2006	November 4–16, 2006
February 10, 2007**	January 5, 2007	January 6–19, 2007
April 14, 2007	March 9, 2007	March 10–23, 2007
June 9, 2007	May 4, 2007	May 5–18, 2007

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Montana GEAR UP website:  
[www.gearup.montana.edu](http://www.gearup.montana.edu)

Montana Guaranteed Student Loan  
Program website:  
[www.mgsllp.org](http://www.mgsllp.org)

National GEAR UP website:  
[www.ed.gov/programs/gearup/](http://www.ed.gov/programs/gearup/)

National Council for Community &  
Education Partnerships (NCCEP) site:  
[www.edpartnerships.org/](http://www.edpartnerships.org/)